

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 617

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lois Phillips on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Lois Phillips, a highly regarded longtime Putnam County teacher, celebrated her eightieth birthday on February 13, 2000, a significant milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Phillips graduated from high school at age 17 and earned her teaching certification at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (Tennessee Tech University); she started teaching in 1939, when she was 19 years old; and

WHEREAS, Lois began her distinguished career by teaching primer (kindergarten) and first through fourth grades at Herren's Chapel, a one-room, two-teacher schoolhouse in Baxter. A strong believer in hard work and the value of discipline, she took a strong interest in her students' lives as well as providing an academic background to ensure their future success; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Phillips taught at Vaden before returning to Herren's Chapel in 1942, which had become a one-teacher school; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, she married Wendell Phillips and a year later their first daughter, Anita, was born. They spent the World War II years in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, after returning home, Lois earned her Bachelor of Science Degree, in Home Economics and taught primer through second grades at Carr's Chapel; and

WHEREAS, she became principal at Silver Point School in 1951 and principal at Nash's Chapel, in 1955 performing with acumen in both positions; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Lois returned to Carr's Chapel and her second daughter, Melinda, was born; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, she earned her Master's degree from Tennessee Tech, going to school at nights and on weekends for several years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Phillips began teaching 9th grade English, and French I and II at Upperman High School in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Lois' teaching career spanned 47 productive years, the longest tenure in the history of Putnam County; her impact on countless numbers of students was considerable; and

WHEREAS, as she begins her ninth decade, Lois Phillips remains an active and productive member of society. She is the treasurer and secretary of her local chapter of the AARP, the secretary of the executive committee of the Putnam County Retired Teachers, and the secretary and treasurer of the Silver Point Family and Community Education Club; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Lois Phillips on her exemplary service to her students and the teaching profession, saluting her on her eightieth birthday,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, with our duly inscribed sentiments be furnished to Lois Phillips, with our best wishes.